

Dear Ms. Giannaros,

I would like to submit testimony in support of HB5530. I will not be able to attend the meeting, so I am writing to you now.

As a Connecticut citizen who went through the public school system, I am in support of HB5530 to give students the right to choose to refrain from dissection. I believe this bill would benefit the students, is humane, and is economical.

As a Connecticut student, I avoided advanced science classes because I was against dissection. I believe others are others who are dissuaded from science classes for this same reason, and this bill would encourage these students that it is "safe" to pursue this important subject area. As science is a field always in demand, it would be wise for our state to allow all students to feel free to pursue it.

Also, this bill is more humane. Fewer animals will suffer and die. Technological alternatives to dissection, such as computer programs, DVDs, and models, are so advanced that killing animals is no longer necessary to study what is inside of them. Both the National Science Teachers Association and the National Association of Biology Teachers agree and are in favor of choice policies.

Lastly, this bill is economical. Instead of having to pay for new bodies to dissect every year, the alternative programs can be re-used over and over. In a time when our state economy is in a tight crunch, this just makes sense.

Fifteen other states, including Massachusetts, Rhode Island, and New York, have laws or policies allowing students to opt out of dissection. It's time Connecticut did, too.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

Alison Flannery

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